

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA: MR. ATHERTON:MDJ

APPROVED BY S: THE SECRETARY

P:MR. HABIB (SUBSTANCE)

S/S-O:AOTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 225486

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AMOCO DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: TEL AVIV 6261

1. PLEASE INFORM RABIN THAT WE REGRET HE HAS NOT ACCEPTED OUR RESPONSE, WHICH SEEMED TO US BOTH PRACTICAL AND RESPONSIVE, ACCEPTING HIS PROPOSAL FOR TALKS WHILE ASKING THAT DRILLING ONLY AT SITE 304.1 GO FORWARD WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ISRAELI POSITION ON PRINCIPLE OF AMOCO'S UNDERTAKING NEW OPERATIONS EAST OF MEDIAN LINE. HE WILL APPRECIATE THAT BY SAME TOKEN WE CANNOT AGREE THAT AMOCO DOES NOT HAVE RIGHT TO BEGIN OPERATIONS AT SITE 304.1 BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21 DEAD-LINE.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE AGREE IT IS DESIRABLE TO BEGIN TALKS SOONEST AND THAT ISRAELI TEAM SHOULD COME TO WASHINGTON IN TIME TO BEGIN TALKS THIS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER

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16. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHOM ISRAELIS PLAN TO SEND ON

ISRAELI SIDE.

3. MEANWHILE, WE INSIST THERE BE NO FURTHER HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN SHIPS, AND, IN PARTICULAR, THAT AMOCO OPERATIONS IN ALREADY EXISTING SITES EAST OF MEDIAN LINE BE PERMITTED

TO CONTINUE UNDISTURBED. THIS WOULD INCLUDE REPLACEMENT OF MARKER BUOYS AT EXISTING PLATFORMS IN RAMADAN FIELD. YOU SHOULD ASK RABIN FOR CONFIRMATION THAT AMOCO OPERATIONS AT EXISTING SITES WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE INTERFERED WITH.

4. FOR CAIRO: PLEASE PASS WORD TO FAHMY THAT, AS WE SAID, WE ARE ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELIS ABOUT AMOCO DRILLING RIGHTS AND, AS NEXT STEP, HAVE ASKED ISRAELIS TO SEND TEAM TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK TO BEGIN TALKS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16. WE HAVE REACHED POINT WHERE WE FEEL THIS IS BEST WAY TO PROCEED RATHER THAN THROUGH FURTHER TIME-CONSUMING DISCUSSIONS VIA DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. WE WILL KEEP FAHMY INFORMED AS OUR TALKS PROCEED. KISSINGER

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